Reforms in NAIS

†3376. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to make comprehensive reforms in the present National Agricultural Insurance Scheme by the end of 2006-07;

(b) if so, whether certain proposals have been formulated for reforms in the said Scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A Joint Group was constituted by the Government of India to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance schemes. The Group has made in-depth study of the related issues and has made number of recommendations. The important recommendations include *inter-alia* reducing the unit area of insurance to Gram Panchayat for major crops, improving the basis of calculation of threshold yield, minimum indemnity level of 80% in place of existing 60%, coverage of pre-sowing/ploiiting risks, post-harvest losses and perennial horticultural crops.

Based on these recommendations a proposal for Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) was prepared and sent to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for 'in principle' approval. The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance have given some suggestions to make further improvements in the scheme. To incorporate the suggestions an alternative proposal for MNAIS is being prepared

Task Force for Co-operative Credit Structure Reforms

3377. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Chief Ministers and State Ministers of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Co-operatives was held in New Delhi on 9th September, 2005, regarding constitution of a Task Force for Co-operative Credit Structure Reforms;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Task Force;

(c) whether the Chief Minister and representatives of the Government of Maharashtra has made certain suggestions to revitalize the rural credit system, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Government of India held an interactive session with the Chief Mihisters/Lt. Governer of all States/UTs on 9th September, 2005 in New Delhi to discuss the recommendations of the Task Force on revival of Rural Co-operative Credit Institutions.

(b) The Terms of Reference of the Task Force constituted by the Government of India in August, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan to suggest an implementable action plan for reviving the Co-operative Credit Structure (CCS) were as under:—

(i) To recommend an implementable action plan for reviving the rural Co-operative Banking Institutions, taking into consideration, *inter alia,* main recommendations made by various committees in this regard.

(ii) To suggest an appropriate regulatory framework and the amendments which may be necessary for the purpose in the relevant laws.

(iii) To make an assessment of the financial assistance that the Co-operative Banking Institutions will require for revival, the mode of such assistance, its sharing pattern and phasing.

(iv) To suggest any other measures required for improving the efficiency and viability of Rural Co-operative Credit Institutions.

(c) Suggestions made by the Government of Maharashtra on major items of the revised package for revival of Co-operative Credit Structure are as under:

(i) Audit should be done by the existing audit system.

(ii) Instead of 10% annual increase in recovery level for PACS for release of financial assistance, 4% have been suggested.

(iii) Government of India should bear 80% of total financial package.

(d) After several rounds of consultation with the State Governments, major recommendations of the Task Force under Prof. A Vaidyanathan with regard to short term co-operative credit structure have been finalized by the Government. The Government of India's share of the total financial package has been increased from 53% as recommended in the report of the Task Force to 68% on an aggregate basis.

Suicides in Maharashtra

3378. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers in Vidarbha in Maharashtra who have committed suicide since 2001, till date;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to alleviate their sufferings^?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANT! LAL BHURIA): (a) As per information received from the Government of Maharashtra, the number of suicide committed by farmers in Vidarbha region since 2001 and upto 30th August, 2005 is as under:—

Year	Number of cases of suicide
2001	52
2002	112
2003	150
2004	403
2005 (upto 30th August, 2005)	66

(b) Repeated crop failure, rising cost of cultivation and indebtedness etc. are identified as the causes for the farmers committing suicide.